

Spinoza, a Great Jew.  
Niagara, White Mice.  
Merchants, Cheer Up.  
Foolish Young Bull.

At this particular time nothing is too big, nothing too small, for the Government—and the Lord be praised.

In the same newspaper you read that Government has taken the waterfalls of Niagara under its control, and advertises for all white mice to fight pneumonia in the soldiers' camps.

We shall be told by sentimentalists of anti-visitation that it is cruel to take poor little white mice, and use them to produce a serum that saves the lives of soldiers.

We shall be told by financial sentimentalists that it is a bitter outrage for Government to take over the power produced by the rushing waters of Niagara, "belonging" to such and such private individuals.

Fortunately, the people are taking these things more and more into their own hands. The white mouse born day before yesterday, and old Niagara that hundered when there was nobody to hear—both obey Government orders, and sentimentalists must take a back seat.

Merchants of Washington, raise your eyes, lift your hands, and sing a short hymn of praise.

Secretary McAdoo, in charge of the railroads, will find it possible for you to have goods coming in and going out in place of the sweet word "embargo."

An able citizen informs us that already, after twenty-four hours of Wilson and McAdoo, the situation is better. It will get better every day.

Secretary McAdoo will not allow the Capital of the Nation to be among all the cities of the country as regards railroads, THE WORST SERVED, and that is what it has been of late.

A small group of railroad presidents, worried presumably about their salaries, that need pruning, and their inside graft, that needs cutting out, are fighting McAdoo and refuse to co-operate in managing the railroads.

When the Union Pacific was first built a young bull decided to stand on the track and settle a certain question with the locomotive, once and for all. He settled it.

We advise the little group of unfriendly railroad presidents to find out what happened to the young bull.

A young lady says that she is studying philosophy, and asks this question: "Please say who was greatest of the philosophers? Was it Aristotle, or Plato, or Descartes, or Kant, or Pythagoras, or Bacon? I have a dispute with my teacher."

It was not any one of those illustrious gentlemen, dear young lady philosopher.

It was a Portuguese Jew named Spinoza, who lived in Holland, worked at grinding lenses for a living, and for several hundred years after he died, taught men how to think.

We shall present him to you in a short biography in this paper some day.

He gave to the human race untold intellectual wealth, and when he died the most valuable possession he left behind him was a silver-handled penknife.

He said to one of his admirers, a rich Englishman, who wanted to leave him his fortune, "Leave it to your brother, he needs money. Leave me 40 cents a day if you choose, in case my eyesight should fail and make it impossible for me to work at my trade."

We advise so-called Christians, afflicted with race or religious prejudice and stupid hatred of Jews, to get a good life of Spinoza, and read it. Sir Frederick Pollock wrote an excellent study of his life and works. Goethe in a few lines of his biography pays the best tribute to the world's greatest thinker—a Jew.

Cheerful railroad stock gambling and investing continue. The gentlemen in Wall Street seem to be quite sure that Government is going to run railroads in such a way as to make them, the gamblers, rich.

You observed that this was predicted before the gambling started, right in this modest little column.

We do not, however, undertake to say that the cheerful gambling and jumping up of railroad stocks will last FOREVER. Some gamblers that fail to "get out" in time, will be badly pinched, but just now is the time for "getting in"—the Wall Street water seems to be unusually fine.

In all this excitement, with Government control of railroads, Niagara Falls, and white mice, the country almost forgets about war, Bolsheviki, Hohenzollerns, peace, treachery, etc.

What Russia will get she will deserve. She will be devoured from the east by Japan, and from the west by Germany.

When Japan and Germany meet in the middle of Russia, each having swallowed one half, something interesting will happen.

WEATHER:  
UNSETTLED  
TODAY.  
CONTINUED  
COLD

NUMBER 10,392.

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 29, 1917. [Close Wall Street Prices.]

PRICE WITHIN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, 2c  
ELSEWHERE, 2c.

# POISON DESTINED FOR CAMP MEADE MAKES TWENTY ILL

THE NEW TRAIN DISPATCHER ON THE U. S. & V.

(Copyright, 1917, By John T. McQuinn.)



WHAT DO YOU  
THINK SHOULD BE  
DONE WITH HIM?

Samuel Tate, 59 years old and stricken with paralysis, will be released from the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta January 3, with no place to go. Tate has been in prison almost continuously since 1872. A five-year sentence for counterfeiting expires next Thursday. He cannot remain in the penitentiary under the law. He is unable to help himself in any way because of his paralysis. He has no relatives living and no close friends. Tate is at a loss what to do with him. His home, if he can be said to have a home, is in Philadelphia, where he spent the little time he was out between prison terms. He was born in Maryland.

Attorney General Gregory, through the district attorney in Philadelphia, asked charitable organizations there to care for the man, but none of them were willing to take Tate as a charge. Old men's homes refused to take an ex-convict. The Attorney General said today, "It is one of the saddest and most pathetic cases that has ever come to my notice."

Department of Justice officials have sought precedents and a legal course of action that was humane in vain. They have left it up to the warden at Atlanta to determine what to do with Tate. Atlanta institutions will not have him. The warden will have to set him, crippled and helpless, outside the gate Thursday. He says that apparently Tate's only recourse is to commit another crime, but he is probably too feeble to do even this.

JOHN D. CAN SLEEP  
AT NIGHT; INCOME  
TAX TO BE SECRET

Tax officials of the State of Ohio, who had a hard tussle with John D. Rockefeller some years ago over the taxes he was to pay to the State, will not be able to get a glimpse at any information about the Oil King's Federal income tax return.

All income tax returns will be kept strictly secret and confidential by internal revenue officers of the Treasury. No person need fear that State taxing officers or any other person will have access to them. Formal assurance to this effect was given by the Internal Revenue Bureau today.

Found Frozen Stiff  
In Lonely Home  
Along the Potomac

HAGERSTOWN, Md., Dec. 29.—Dying alone in his home near Arden, along the Potomac river, the body of James Murphy, a quarryman, was found frozen stiff by neighbors.

He is believed to have died from exposure, and to have been dead for twelve hours before his body was found.

MOUSE, ANY COLOR,  
BRINGS 15 CENTS AT  
ARMY LABORATORY

Uncle Sam today quoted 15 cents for mice—white, gray, brown or black.

The color doesn't make any difference. The only stipulation is that they must be alive.

Col. J. T. Russell, in charge of laboratory work in the surgeon-general's office, today told The Times that he would buy all the mice presented the office at that price. They are to be used for experimental purposes to determine the different types of pneumonia, which will in turn determine the different treatments to be used. The Red Cross is also anxious to secure a large number of mice for experimental purposes.

"Since the war broke out," said Schmidt, a dealer in the rodents, who lives at 712 Twelfth street, said today, "the price has steadily jumped. Last year we could sell all we could get at 25 cents apiece. Now we must get at least three times that price to make a profit."

U. S. GIRLS AT PHONES  
ABROAD; NURSES' PAY

Girl telephone operators are being used for duty abroad.

They will be granted the same allowances as army nurses. War Department general orders showed today.

MANN IS OPERATED ON.

James H. Mann, Republican leader of the House, underwent an operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, according to word received from there today. Mr. Mann is resting well. He has been in the hospital for some weeks.

NO RELIEF SEEN  
FROM COLD WAVE  
GRIPPING THE EAST

No relief from the intense cold wave which is gripping Washington and the Atlantic seaboard is in sight today for 1917. Tuesday, the first day of 1918, "may be somewhat warmer" was the forecast of the Weather Bureau this morning.

The Government-operated railroads are being put to a severe test today by a snowstorm of blizzard proportions, which is sweeping the east to day. It is impossible to maintain traffic on regular schedule today and every hour's delay is a serious loss of time in moving war munitions and supplies on eastern rails.

Four o'clock yesterday afternoon saw the last of this week's "balmy" weather for the mercury which was hanging around the 40 mark, then began to drop and never stopped until it hit 6 above at 8 o'clock this morning—the coldest weather of the year.

This was four degrees lower than any weather of the present winter. It was 16 above on December 13. On December 29 one year ago the thermometer ranged between 24 and 39.

Snow began falling last night and today the city was fanned by a brisk wind of fifteen miles-an-hour velocity. Early today the wind assumed the proportions of a small cyclone, blowing at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour.

At 10 o'clock today the mercury had risen 7 degrees above zero. Continuation of the present cold snap is looked for a few days at least.

Unsettled tonight and Sunday; probably light snow; continued cold; gentle north to northeast winds; it what the Weather Bureau has to say in the matter.

The cold wave seems to have hit the whole country, low temperatures being recorded in the entire northern two-thirds of the United States. Zero and below was reported in northeastern New York, Maine, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri and Kansas.

Mercury Record.

The following table shows how the mercury has been acting:

YESTERDAY.		TODAY.	
4 p. m.	40	3 a. m.	15
6 p. m.	35	5 a. m.	12
8 p. m.	29	7 a. m.	11
10 p. m.	25	9 a. m.	10
11 p. m.	23	11 a. m.	9
12 p. m.	17	1 p. m.	9
		3 p. m.	9
		5 p. m.	9
		7 p. m.	9
		9 p. m.	6
		11 p. m.	7
		10 a. m.	7

TURKS, WITH  
TEUTON AID,  
MAKE DRIVE  
ON HOLY CITY

Desperate Campaign Launched  
to Retake Jerusalem by Force  
at Points Outnumbering British Two to One.

Four Turkish army divisions—upward 60,000 men—re-enforced by Austro-German troops from the Russian and Rumanian fronts, have begun a desperate campaign to retake Jerusalem and drive the British from the Holy Land, according to official reports reaching Washington today.

Heavy fighting is in progress over a line extending from Jaffa on the Mediterranean through Jerusalem and along the Jericho road almost to the River Jordan. The Turks vainly attempted to break the British grip on the Jaffa-Jerusalem railroad. Abortive efforts to turn the British flank in the neighborhood of Bethany, northeast of Jerusalem, failed.

British Outnumbered.

At some points along the line General Allenby's expeditionary force is outnumbered two to one.

According to official reports, he is making a determined stand against General Falkenhayn's combined Turkish-Austro-German divisions.

"On December 26, 27, 28," the official report reads, "the enemy delivered a number of determined attacks with four full divisions in the neighborhood of Bir Nebala. (Military experts here estimate a Turkish division as 15,000 men, making Falkenhayn's forces in Palestine upward of 60,000 troops.)

Reputed With Losses.

"They were repulsed with heavy losses. Subsequently, we lost a determined counter attack against the enemy right flank with two divisions. Our troops won a brilliant victory, advancing a distance of two and one-half miles over a nine-mile front along the Beilka Kafir Nomah line. The Turkish losses were exceptionally sanguinary."

Capture of a large number of German prisoners also was reported in Allenby's dispatch. These were from the 701st German regiment, the commander of which has been known for some time.

More Subterfuge.

Recently a Vienna report stated the Central powers would make no attempt to retake the Holy Land and would regard it as definitely out of the military zone. In view of today's official dispatches, however, this was apparently a subterfuge, although the allied military leaders never told it seriously.

A troop movement into Turkey to bolster up the fast falling morale of the Moslems has been anticipated by the British for some time. The suspicion was not confirmed, however, until Allenby's report was received.

Teutons Gather in Macedonia.

Today's dispatches from Rome indicated that the Teutons were sending several divisions into Macedonia. British successes in Turkey were having a decided effect on Bulgarian morale, it was stated.

The temporary cessation of British activity in Palestine, because of heavy rains the past two weeks, has given General Falkenhayn ample opportunity to reorganize Enver Pasha's disheartened Moslems and to rehabilitate the spent Turkish ranks with fresh Teutons from the Russian front.

A large force is reported to have been detached from the Turkey-Teuton army operating near Baghdad and sent into the Holy Land.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS.  
(United Press Staff Correspondent.)

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, Dec. 29.—Severe cold has practically frozen up all fighting on the British front.

With the lines buried under snow today and the thermometer far below freezing there was little chance for fighting. The Germans heavily shelled British trenches near Bullois and southwest of Bourlon yesterday.

Later the Home Guard sector was subjected to a gas shell attack at 10:30 p. m. Still later at night the German shells were heard.

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Cunard Liner Vinovia Sunk  
By German U-Boat

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 29.—Destruction of the Cunard liner Vinovia by a German U-boat off the British Isles was told today in dispatches received by marine underwriters.

The Vinovia, valued at \$900,000 and a vessel of 5,503 gross tons, was carrying a \$1,500,000 cargo of food and munitions from New York.

No word has been received as to the fate of the crew.

Three British Destroyers Lost With 193 Men  
LONDON, Dec. 29.—Three British destroyers were mined or torpedoed and sunk on the Dutch coast last night, according to an admiralty announcement today. Thirteen officers and 180 men were lost.

KAISER LOSES  
SIX MORE  
U-BOATS

Official unpublished photographs of the capture of the first U-boat crew and the sinking of the submarine will be a feature of TOMORROW'S SUNDAY TIMES.

A flood of U-boat news reached Washington today. It was news of a cheering nature to Americans. Unofficial reports told of the loss by the Germans of six submarine torpedoes. Official report by the Committee on Public Information described the capture of the first submarine prisoners by the U. S. Destroyers Fanning and Nicholson on November.

Unofficial reports were received in Washington today of the loss by the Germans of six more submarines. Four were captured by American destroyers, one surrendered, after the crew had mutinied and killed the commander, and one was sent to the bottom by the guns of an American liner.

News of the captures comes from a former Boston newspaper man, now in the American navy, who has just returned from a French port.

He declares that the four submarines were floating with decks awash, changing their storage batteries when they were surprised by twelve American destroyers and surrendered without a fight. They were taken to a French port, where the Americans received an ovation.

U-Boat Surrenders.

He also told of the entry into the harbor of a French port of a U-boat flying a white flag. The Germans explained that they had been lying in wait for the very transport upon which the American was a seaman. Their supplies ran low and the men mutinied, killed their captain, and then decided to surrender to the French.

Don Martin, correspondent of the New York Herald, cables from London of the sinking of a submarine by an American steamship upon which he has just reached England. They had an eventful trip until almost the

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DOCTORS CALL  
PHONE SERVICE  
HEALTH MENACE

That the present telephone rates in Washington are exorbitant when the service rendered is considered, and that the service is a serious menace to the health of the community, because of delays in emergency and sick calls, is the gist of a resolution passed by the District Medical Society made public today. A copy of the resolution has been sent to the Public Utilities Commission with the suggestion that an improvement in the service should be made to precede any increase in rates. The society has 900 members in the District.

ARSENIC IN  
SALT KILLS  
HORSES AT  
SEABROOK

Russian Grocer Who Sold Commodity in Village Claims to Have Obtained It From Dealer Here.

One woman is near death, twenty persons have had narrow escapes from death, and two horses are dead in Seabrook, Md., a village between Washington and Camp Meade, Md., from eating salt containing arsenic, it was learned today.

The poison was contained in eighty pounds of salt sold to residents of Seabrook by Max Katzen, forty-five years old, a grocer in the village, and was in sufficient quantity to have killed everybody in the village, according to officials who made an analysis.

Department of Justice detectives investigating the case believe that the poisoned salt was sold to Katzen by a man who thought the grocer was purchasing supplies for Camp Meade. Katzen is a Russian, and officials say he apparently is an innocent victim of a deep-laid plot.

Salt Procured Here.

Katzen purchased the salt in Washington through a man according to a statement he made to the Times today. The connection of the salt poisoning plot with the recent ground glass outrages among army contingents, when ground glass was found in tomatoes, and at Philadelphia, when it was discovered in bread for the sailors, is believed to have been established. It is thought that the salt which Katzen bought was to have been sold by him to military authorities for use among horses of the remount stations and supply trains. The salt was coarse, not the kind used for the table.

Those who are ill from the effects of the poison are Major J. E. Gaines and O. C. Brothman, of Mississippi, prominent realty men employed by the Capitol Realty Company and engaged in development work at Seabrook; Moses Parker, his wife and family, the Chittam brothers, Arthur and Frank, and their families. Mrs. Salie Chittam, aged mother of the Chittam brothers, is in a serious condition. Parker and the Chittams are negroes.

Takes Prompt Action.

Katzen took immediate action when he learned that he was under suspicion of having poisoned the people of the villages. He immediately came to Washington, but because he is a resident of Maryland, he was unable to have an analysis made in the District. Bernard S. Walker, of Buena Vista, took a sample of the salt to the State chemist at Maryland Agricultural College for examination.

It is thought that the peddler, who sold Katzen the salt believed that Katzen's trade was among the soldiers at the camp.

"The man I bought the salt from was in a wagon on Louisiana avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets," Katzen told The Times. "He was about medium height, wore a dark hat and long black overcoat and his face was pitted like he had had smallpox. I don't remember what his horse looked like."

"I bought the salt about three weeks ago," Katzen declared. "It was lumpy, coarse salt and seemed to be dirty. I bought it cheap, and intended to sell it for horses. I didn't know anything was the matter with it. If I did, I wouldn't have sold it for \$10,000 a pound."

"The first man to buy salt was Moses Parker. My wife sold him a peck while I was away in town. The next day his horses were dead and everybody was sick. That is all I know about it. I still have the salt, but I wouldn't sell it for a million dollars. I am a good American."

Advices Analyzed.

"He told me he bought the salt in Washington," Judge White said, "and asked me what to do. I advised him to go to Washington and have the salt analyzed."

Moses Parker today declared that Katzen had told him he bought the salt "a long way from here."

Parker used the salt on a freshly-killed pig, two cuts of the meat going to Major Gaines and O. C. Brothman.

VESUVIUS IN ERUPTION.

ROME, Dec. 29.—Vesuvius again is in violent eruption, according to word received here today.

READ GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S ARTICLE ON THE IRISH SITUATION ON PAGE 5